Exodus 24: 3-8, Hebrews 9: 11-15, Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26

FOCUS: Jesus gives us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist we honor today
Today's Alleluia verse is a powerful statement of the theme of this solemnity of the
Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Taken from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel (
6:51), listen to it again: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the
Lord: whoever eats this bread will live forever."

It is not easy for today's generation of people to understand the ancient significance of bread. It used to be known as the staff of life, meaning that it was the main support of human life; but Americans are known as meat-and –potatoes people. For the huge populations of Asia, rice is the chief item of the diet. For other nations and peoples it may be pasta or fish or game that is the staff of life. In our time the soggy, pasty, tasteless enriched bread available in stores often makes people long for the days when mothers and grandmothers produced homemade honest-to-goodness bread in their own kitchens.

So the question arises for modern believers: Why did Jesus choose bread and wine for the sacrament? It was because in biblical times bread, along with fish (usually cooked in olive oil) and grape wine, was the regular diet of the ordinary people. Bread was the staff of life. It meant life to the ancients, and the Scriptures say as much. When our first parents were expelled from the Garden of Eden it was in these terms: "By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat" (Gen 3:19). When Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, he taught them to ask for their earthly needs in terms of bread: "Give us today our daily bread" (Matt 6:11). In his desert confrontation with Satan trying to tempt him, Jesus said, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4). Jesus chose the most common food of his time for the Eucharist to show that just as the body needs food in order to live, so the soul needs the nourishment of this sacrament.

A second question arises when we consider the Eucharist: What did Jesus mean when he spoke those sacred words? Listen to his words from today's Gospel: "These are plain assertions by a man who is about to die. Men about to die do not speak in riddles. Or listen again to the alleluia verse: "I am the living bread." Four of those five words have only one syllable. This is plain language. This is why we do not substitute canned grape juice for wine or dispose irreverently the elements of communion which are unused. That might be permissible if Jesus did not really mean what he said, if the bread and wine were merely symbols. There is only one conclusion: He meant what he said. He, himself, is our food under the forms of bread and wine.

Our final question is: Of what importance is this to us? The answer is that this sacrament is necessary for spiritual living. It forgives sins and gives us spiritual strength and health. Just as we need three meals a day to be healthy and to work, so we need this sacrament regularly to be alive and well in the spirit. Remember that the results are guaranteed, for Jesus assures us, whoever eats this brad will live forever.

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

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Alice O'Hara, 446-5797

WE ARE NOT CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER!

If you are new to West Point or an old-timer who has not yet registered or re-registered your child or children for Religious Education, the summer months are a great time to stop by the Religious Education Office, which is located in the Cloister Room (chapel basement). At this time, you can fill out a registration form and find out about our need for catechists, bus monitors and coordinators for the 2003-04 semester. Please call "Ms. Kay," Director of Religious Education @938-8761. *OPENING DAY FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS SEPTEMBER* 7TH.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

23- 27 June. Theme: Scuba – "Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure." Please call Ashley Goertimiller at 446-4043 or the Post Chapel at 938-2003 for further information. Volunteers needed. Registration forms are available at Holy Trinity Chapel in both the Religious Education and Rectory office.

SCRIPTURE FOR WEEK OF June 22, 2003

Mon – Genesis 12: 1-9, Matthew 7: 1-5

Tue - Isaiah 49: 1-6, Acts 13: 22-26, Luke 1: 57-66, 80

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Wed – Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18, Matthew 7: 15-20

Thurs – Genesis 16: 1-12, 15-16, Matthew 7: 21-29

Fri - Hosea 11: 1, 3-4, 8c-9, Ephesians 3: 8-12, 14-19, John 19: 31-37, Most Sacred Heart of

Jesus

Sat – Genesis 18: 1-15, Matthew 8: 5-17

Saint Irenaeus

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Sat 21 June 1715 Parishioners of MHT

Sun 22 June 1000 Elizabeth Bready

James & Maureen White - 40th Wedding Anniversary

Mon 23 June 1205

Tue 24 June 1205 Richard Lynn

Wed 25 June 1205 Marta Avery

Thurs 26 June 1205 Marie-Theresa Poquet

Fri 27 June 1205 John Guldan

Attendance and Offering Last Weekend:

Attendance 363 Offering \$1,207.41

This Designated Offering: July 12 & 13 will be for "Sacred Heart"

HOST FAMILY FOR Jun 28-29

1715 Volunteer 1000 Volunteer

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Jun 28-29

1715 K. McDonald, T. Leszczynski, E. Naessens

1000 A. Lennox, W. Lennox, B. Smith

USHERS FOR Jun 28-29

1715 Volunteer 1000 Volunteer

ALTAR SERVERS Jun 28-29

1715 (3) Volunteers

1000 (3) Volunteers

PROCLAIMERS FOR Jun 28-29

1715 Lisa Glen / Joe Peterson

1716 Tom Strunck / Bob Smith

Important dates for your Calendar:

3 Jul Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, will be on Thursdays through the summer months.

4 Jul Daily Mass will be held @ 1205

I have a question. Whom do I call? <u>Pastoral Coordinator</u>...Kate Hayden 938-8760 <u>Chaplain's Assistant...</u> SPC Alexander 938-3721

Parish registration, Calendars, Bulletin, Maintenance, Room Scheduling, Purchase Orders, Mass Cards, Fund Requests.

<u>Director Rel-Ed</u>... Kay Heppes... 938-8761 Faith Formation, Rel. Education of Children & Adults, RCIA.

Wedding Coordinator....Lorraine Finn...932-2784
Wedding information, scheduling, paperwork,
Pre-Cana/Engaged Encounter information.

<u>Director of Music</u>.... Meredith Baker...938-3544 Adult, Children's and Cadet Choir, Wedding Music, Liturgical Music.

<u>Pastor</u>.... Fr. Vince Burns...938-3721 Reconciliation, Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Pastoral and Sacramental Concerns.

> <u>Cadet Issues</u>....Fr. Edson Wood....938-2784 Fr. Jerry Deponai ...938-2784

Visit our Web Site @http://www.usma.edu/Chaplain/mht/

RECONCILIATION, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION:

Thursdays 1820 –1930 at MHT Chapel RCIA

MHT Catholic Chapel needs folks who will work with us in welcoming people into our Catholic Church. We have the funds to send you to a week long training session sponsored by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

One of the most important missions of any parish is to welcome people into our Church and to share our Faith with them. The responsibility belongs to all of us, but specifically we need some parishioners to work with us on the **Rite of Christian Initiation** Team. No experience necessary, just a willingness to share faith with someone who is interested in our Catholic Faith. Please contact Father Vince or Kay Heppes for more information.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:
GOD'S TYM (Total Youth Ministries)

POC Tanya Tolentino @ 424-3609

Use your talents!

We appreciate the contribution each one of our parishioners makes to the act of corporate worship here at Most Holy Trinity. As we celebrate Mass on Saturday 1715 and Sunday 1000, singers and instrumentalists are invited to volunteer their efforts in support of the music leadership.

Contact LTC Andy Glen for information about the Folk Group on Saturdays (warm-up at 1630, before Mass) and/or Meredith Baker regarding the 1000(warm-up at 0930 Sundays).

Parish Registration

We ask families and single adults who worship with us to register officially as Most Holy Trinity Parishioners. Such registration helps us to be able to contact you and keep track of our parish. It also helps when you are seeking a letter of eligibility for being a sponsor and for some marriage requirements. You can pick up a registration form from the Rectory or use the one attached to the bulletin. Moving? If you will be leaving us, please notify us of the change.

PARISH CENSUS UPDATE

WELCOME to all new folks joining our parish & **FAREWELL** to all who are moving. Please help us keep our Census up-to-date by filling out this form:

| Name | _ |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Address | |
| Citar 9- 7in | _ |
| City & Zip | |
| Phone | |
| Please Check one: | |
| New registration | |
| Updated registration | |
| I am moving out of the area | |

Please drop off in offering basket at Mass or at Parish ofc.